

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (New) A ball valve for controlling flow of fluids or gases, comprising:
  - a dilatable stent having a proximal end and a distal end;
  - a cage-shaped barrier covering the proximal end of the stent;
  - an orifice at the distal end of the stent, the orifice having a size;
  - an inflatable ball having a size larger than the orifice size, the ball trapped in the stent by the cage-shaped barrier and the orifice; and
  - an inflatable lining that lines the stent and defines the size of the orifice;
  - wherein the ball is free to move inside the stent, and contact of the ball against the inflatable lining blocks fluid or gas flow through the distal end of the stent.
20. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the lining is compressible.
21. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the stent is made of metallic material.
22. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the stent is made of plastic material.
23. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the stent is inflatable.
24. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the stent is shaped as a ring.
25. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the stent is of tubular shape.
26. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the stent is of cylindrical shape.
27. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the stent is of conical shape.
28. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the stent is of pentagonal shape.

29. **(New)** A method of regulating blood flow in a blood vessel, comprising:
  - placing a ball valve as defined by claim 1 into the blood vessel;
  - dilating the stent of the valve to take the size of the blood vessel;
  - inflating the balloon of the valve; and
  - inflating the lining of the valve;

wherein the ball valve prevents blood flow in the blood vessel in a proximal-to-distal direction relative to the stent.
30. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising crushing a previous damaged non-functioning valve, and wherein placing comprises putting the ball valve in the place of the previous valve.
31. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising inflating or deflating the lining after placement, thereby changing the size of the orifice at the distal end of the stent.